

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A fiber detector apparatus, comprising:  
a hub having a proximal end and a distal end, and having a longitudinal axis through a lumen extending through the proximal and distal ends, wherein the hub is structured to receive through the lumen a fiber guide tube ~~through the lumen~~, which has a proximal end coupled to the hub and a distal end including a material remover; and  
a plurality of retractable pins that provide fiber identification information of a fiber within the fiber guide tube, the retractable pins being provided at a leading surface of the proximal end of the hub.
2. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the retractable pins is in electrical communication with the other retractable pins.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a microcircuit connected to the retractable pins.
6. (Currently Amended) A fiber guide assembly, comprising:  
a fiber guide tube having a proximal end and a distal end including a material remover; and  
a hub having a proximal hub end and a distal hub end, the hub being positioned around the proximal end of the fiber guide tube, wherein the hub includes a plurality of retractable pins at the proximal hub end.

7. (Original) The assembly of claim 6, further comprising at least one fiber extending through the fiber guide tube.
8. (Original) The assembly of claim 7, wherein the fiber is an optical fiber.
9. (Previously Amended) The assembly of claim 6, further comprising a microcircuit in contact with the retractable pins.
10. (Previously Amended) The assembly of claim 7, wherein the number and position of the retractable pins is indicative of characteristics of the at least one fiber.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim ~~6~~10, ~~further comprising a material remover at the other end of the fiber guide tube~~ wherein the characteristics include fiber length, shape, diameter, and type.
13. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting a fiber attached to a hub, comprising ~~the steps of:~~
  - (a) providing a hub having ~~a plurality of~~ at least three retractable pins at a proximal end of the hub;
  - (b) placing a circuit board into electrical contact with the pins, wherein the number and position of the retractable pins contacting the circuit board determine a coding sequence indicative of the presence of a fiber; and
  - (c) decoding the coding sequence to determine whether the fiber is attached to the hub, wherein the fiber is detected if the coding sequence reveals a predetermined electrical circuit, and wherein the retractable pins determine characteristics of the fiber including the fiber's length, shape, diameter, and type.

Applicant: Richard Becker

Serial No.: 10/029,586

Page 4 of 6

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, ~~wherein the hub has at least three retractable pins for determining characteristics of the fiber~~ further comprising a microcircuit in contact with the retractable pins.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, ~~wherein the fiber characteristics include the fiber's length, shape, diameter, and type~~ the number and position of the retractable pins is indicative of characteristics of the fiber.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15~~3~~, further comprising determining a fiber tip's power density.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 13~~ A method of detecting a fiber attached to a hub, comprising:

(a) providing a hub having a plurality of retractable pins at a proximal end of the hub;

(b) placing a circuit board into electrical contact with the pins, wherein the number and position of the retractable pins contacting the circuit board determine a coding sequence indicative of the presence of a fiber; and

(c) decoding the coding sequence to determine whether the fiber is attached to the hub, wherein the fiber is detected if the coding sequence reveals a predetermined electrical circuit, and wherein the hub includes a microcircuit for storing data including the fiber's length, shape, diameter, and type.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18~~7~~, further comprising determining a fiber tip's power density based on the data stored in the microcircuit.

20. (New) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the fiber is an optical fiber.

Applicant: Richard Becker

Serial No.: 10/029,586

Page 5 of 6

21. (New) The assembly of claim 20, further comprising a microcircuit in contact with the retractable pins.
22. (New) The assembly of claim 21, wherein the number and position of the retractable pins is indicative of characteristics of the fiber.
23. (New) The assembly of claim 22, wherein the characteristics of the fiber include the fiber's length, shape, diameter, and type.